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GHOST RIDER & BLAZE

SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE

VENOM

PART 2 OF 4

ADAM KUBERT

GHOST RIDER: A RELENTLESS AND UNFORGIVING DEMONIC FORCE OF RETRIBUTION. JOHN BLAZE: A MAN WHO ESCAPED HIS OWN DEMONIC CURSE, ONLY TO BE TEAMED WITH THE ENTITY HE ONCE VOWED TO DESTROY. TOGETHER THEY TRAVEL THE COUNTRY, FIGHTING THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT. THEY ARE. . ..

GHOST RIDER & BLAZE
SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE

IT'S SO DARK.

WHERE AM I?

HEAD IS THROBBING...

...MUST HAVE HIT...

...BUT THE DARKNESS?

SURROUNDING ME.

CRUSHING ME.

TEARING AT ME.

THE DARKNESS!

NOW I REMEMBER!

CLK

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

THE DEATHSPAWN!

WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?

CHASING SHADOWS

THIS THING HAS GOTTEN *WAY* OUT OF HAND.

WE CAME LOOKING TO STOP *HAG* AND *TROLL* AND SAVE A FEW LIVES...

...INSTEAD WE'RE OVER-WHELMED BY THESE THINGS THAT *DEATHWATCH* CREATED AND...

...STUMBLE INTO THE MIDDLE OF ONE OF *SPIDER-MAN'S* BATTLES!*

NOW BESIDES THE GHOULS WE STARTED OUT WITH WE'VE GOT *TWO HOBGOBLINS*, ONE UGLIER THAN THE OTHER.

AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A COUPLE OF *SPIDER-MAN* CLONES!

VENOM AND THAT THING WITH ALL THE ARMS.

THIS ISN'T TURNING OUT TO BE A *REAL* GOOD NIGHT FOR ME!

*WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #95.

HOWARD MACKIE/ ADAM KUBERT/ BILL REINHOLD
MICHAEL HEISLER/ GREGORY WRIGHT
BOBBIE CHASE/ TOM DeFALCO

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OVERALL THINGS AREN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD FOR THE GOOD GUYS.

CAN'T EVEN TELL WHO THE GOOD GUYS ARE...

...EXCEPT FOR THE PRIEST.

THE *PRIEST*?! WHAT ON EARTH IS HE DOING HERE?

THESE *DEATHSPAWN* ARE SWALLOWING US ALL UP.

CRUSHING THE BREATH OUT OF ME...

...AND PULLING US ALL DOWN.

DANGER
FLAMMABLE
CON ED
CLIK
DESPERATE TIMES...
...CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES.
BOOM
FWOOM
AIEEEEE

LOOK AT THAT...

...THEY DON'T SEEM TO LIKE THE FIRE.

LET'S GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE WHILE THE DEATHSPAWN ARE STILL SCATTERING AND BEFORE THE TUNNEL CAVES IN ON US!

NO...

...THEY'RE CARRYING AWAY SPIDER-MAN, THE PRIEST, AND SOME OF THE OTHERS.

SPIDER-MAN HAS BEEN OUR ALLY...

...WE *MUST* ASSIST HIM!

YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

SPIDER-MAN?

WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO DIE AT *THEIR* HANDS!

THESE TWO MEAN NOTHING COMPARED TO HIM.

OKAY!

EVERYONE STOP TELLING ME WHAT TO DO ALREADY!

I'LL STOP THEM.

NO! HE IS OURS!

WE CAN'T LET THEM TAKE HIM *THROUGH* THE...

BOOM

...WALLARRRR--

NOARRRRRR!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO *US*?!

FIRE.

PAIN!

SORRY ABOUT THE NICK. HOPE IT DOESN'T HURT TOO MUCH!

BUT YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN HANDLE IT!

HANDLE IT?

PAIN WE CAN HANDLE.

OUR LIFE HAS BEEN FILLED WITH PAIN.

BUT YOU STOPPED US FROM REACHING SPIDER-MAN...

...THE ONE WHO HAS CAUSED US ALL OUR PAIN.

FOR THAT...

...WE WILL HAVE YOUR SPINE!

TCHINK

A CHAIN?

YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP US WITH A CHAIN?

FWAK

OUR DESIRE TO SEE SPIDER-MAN *SUFFER* AS HE HAS MADE US SUFFER GIVES US THE STRENGTH TO--

GET OVER IT.

YOU FEEL THE PAIN IN YOUR SIDE? THAT WAS FROM A GRAZE.

JUST THINK WHAT THIS BABY WILL DO TO YOUR HEAD.

NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL US WHAT YOU WANT.

WHAT DO WE *WANT*?

WE WANT VENGEANCE.

WE WANT THE KILLERS YOU HELPED TO ESCAPE.

WE WANT SPIDER-MAN'S BRAINS.

STAY OUT OF OUR WAY OR WE'LL SUCK THE BRAINS FROM YOUR HEAD AS WELL.

NICE!

YOU THINK HE'S ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS?

OH, LOOK WHAT YOU FOUND!

YES.

NOW WE KNOW THAT HAG AND TROLL WILL BE BACK.

I BELIEVE THEY PLAN ON ATTEMPTING TO RESTORE DEATH-WATCH TO LIFE.

THIS IS WHY THEY HAVE HELD ONTO HIS LIFELESS BODY...

...AND WHY THOSE SHADOW CREATURES WANT HIM SO BADLY.

THEY ARE TIED TO THE DEMON.

THEY ARE HIS CHILDREN... HIS *SPAWN*.

LOOK, WHY DON'T I JUST SHOVE THE GUN IN HIS MOUTH, PULL THE TRIGGER, AND--

IT WOULD DO NO GOOD.

THERE IS MORE TO DEATHWATCH THEN I FIRST EXPECTED.

PERHAPS *DR. STRANGE* COULD...

...WAIT.

LISTEN.

LISTEN? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY EARS!

NO...

...BUT I CAN HEAR THE *CRIES* OF THE *INNOCENT!*

UUUHHHHNNN

LET IT GO. THE OTHER VICTIMS NEED US.

I CAN'T.

...WHEN WE CAN ALL FALL INTO THE DARKNESS TOGETHER?

AND WHY *SHOULD* HE...

UGH!

LAST ONE DOWN...

...IS *DEAD!*

DOVER, NEW JERSEY.

THE LATEST STOPOVER FOR THE QUENTIN CARNIVAL.

MS. MENNINGER?

TIMOTHY WOODS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT IN THIS WEATHER?

GET IN OUT OF THE STORM.

I JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY. Y'KNOW, THE STORM AND EVERY-THING.

TIM, I'M FINE...

...AND I'LL BE EVEN BETTER ONCE I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE IN YOUR OWN TRAILER.

NOW GO STRAIGHT HOME AND CALL TO ME WHEN YOU'RE BACK IN YOUR OWN...

...YOUR OWN...

WE'RE COMING.

BLAZE HAS BROUGHT DEATH TO YOU ALL.

NO.

WE SERVE HIM.

AND WE WON'T BE STOPPED.

NO...

...TIMMY!

CLARA?

MOM! DAD! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MS. MENNINGER!

MEANWHILE...

...ME!

THANKS.

HAPPY LANDINGS, GENTLEMEN!

YOU KNOW, VENOM, I THINK IT'S TIME YOU, ME, AND MY *GUN* HAD A HEART TO HEART!

ANY TIME! HOW ABOUT RIGHT *NOW*?

NO.

AHEAD IN THE SHADOWS. VOICES CALLING.

GOOD.

WE CAN WAIT FOR YOU, BLAZE.

GHOST RIDER! CATCH...

BUT THE KILLERS OF THE INNOCENT...

...THEY *DIE!*

I HAVEN'T *EVER* WANTED TO USE THIS GUN ON ANYONE SO BADLY SINCE IT STARTED SHOOTING HELLFIRE...

OTHER THAN *YOU*, THAT IS...NO OFFENSE!

NONE TAKEN.

I'M GETTING THE DISTINCT SENSE OF A PERSONALITY DEVELOPING IN THAT EMPTY HEAD OF YOURS.

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND *DAN*?

WHEN I REMEMBER IT ALL, BUT *NOT* NOW...

...SOMETHING IS WRONG.

VENOM, STOP!

KILL HIM!

HE'S ONE OF THEM!

TEAR HIM APART BEFORE HE...

TCHINK

ARE YOU *INSANE*?

THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO KILL *US*!

THEY HAVE TO...

...DIE?

YOU'RE NOT THE DEATHSPAWN. WHAT ARE YOU?

FOOD.

THEY'VE BEEN TAKING US FROM THE STREETS FOR MONTHS NOW.

WE GET ENOUGH TO EAT TO KEEP US ALIVE AND THEN...

...A BUNCH OF THEM WILL SHOW UP AND SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF WHOEVER THEY CAN GET THEIR HANDS ON.

THEN THEY DISAPPEAR. WE NEVER KNOW WHEN THEY'LL BE BACK...

...WHEN IT WILL ALL *END.*

IT ENDS *TONIGHT.* WE'LL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THIS PLACE.

YES. AND IF ANY OF THE DEATHSPAWN SHOW THEIR FACES WE'LL...

OH, YEAH!

REAL SUPER HEROES, *huh?*

WHAT MAKES YOU ANY DIFFERENT FROM *THEM?*

HI, GUYS! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND, *FATHER MARTIN*, THE GENTLEMAN AT THE END...

...THE ONE WITHOUT AN UGLY SUIT, COULD USE A HAND!

I THINK WE'D ALL BE MORE COMFORTABLE IF THE OTHER THREE STAYED WHERE THEY ARE.

WE'LL GIVE YOU MORE THAN A *HAND!*

ACTUALLY A HAND IS ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT OF *YOU* WHEN WE ARE THROUGH!

TCHINK

ACHHH!

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE OUR ENEMIES.

THESE PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP IF THEY ARE TO LIVE.

IS YOUR PERSONAL REVENGE AGAINST SPIDER-MAN WORTH *MORE* THAN INNOCENT LIVES?

LET...GO... OF... ME!

WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

NICE SPEECH, GHOST RIDER.

BUT NOTHING IS LEAVING OUR PRIVATE PANTRY.

WE GIVE DEATHWATCH OVER TO YOU AND THEN, WHAT... WE CAN ALL JUST LEAVE, RIGHT?

WE NEED ALL THE LIFE FORCE WE CAN GATHER IF WE ARE TO RES-URRECT DEATHWATCH!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

BOOM BOOM BOOM

GET THESE PEOPLE OUT OF HERE!

FATHER, LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

BUT THE *OTHERS?* WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM TO BE DEVOURED BY THESE MONSTERS.

YOU'RE RIGHT, AND IT LOOKS LIKE *TROLL* HAS HELPED MAKE THE DECISION TO KEEP US AROUND!

THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THEM!

WE CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK!

LET THEM COME. WE'RE READY FOR THEM!

IT'S NOT *US* THEY WANT! WE'RE DOING TOO MUCH DAMAGE!

THEY'RE GOING PAST US. THEY'RE TAKING THE *PEOPLE!*

AND *DEATHWATCH!*

AND *SPIDER-MAN!*

DEATHWATCH!

I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE HIM FROM ME AGAIN!

NO.

THE DEATHSPAWN ARE TAKING *HIM* IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION FROM THE REST.

NOW YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE.

WHO ARE YOU FIGHTING... AND WHY?

DEATHWATCH? HE'S DEAD! OR CLOSE TO IT.

BUT THOSE PEOPLE... THEM WE CAN STILL SAVE.

YOU DECIDE.

DEATHWATCH WILL BE MINE AGAIN!

BUT I WILL *NOT* SEE ANY MORE *BLOOD* SPILLED IN HIS NAME!

WE ARE GOING FOR THE SPIDER KILLER!

DOES THIS MAKE US A TEAM?

NOT EVEN CLOSE!

TO BE CONTINUED in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #96 and CONCLUDED in GHOST RIDER & BLAZE SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #6!